

On the Green

A publication for Gallaudet University staff and faculty

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Gallaudet receives two major grants

At Gallaudet, 1995 ended on a joyous note when the news arrived that two grants totaling \$500,000 had been approved.

On December 19, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City announced that it had approved the University's proposal for \$300,000 to fund a faculty development project administered by the Department of Academic Technology.

The same day, Gallaudet also received word that the W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles, Calif., had approved its proposal for a \$200,000 grant. The Keck Foundation grant will be used to initiate a program to enhance the teaching skills of science teachers of deaf high school students.

This is not the first time that these foundations have given their support to Gallaudet. In 1991, the Mellon Foundation granted the University \$200,000 to enhance sign communication programs for faculty and staff. The same year, the Keck Foundation granted \$300,000 to help fund the renovation of biological science laboratories at Hall Memorial Building.

"Under the leadership of Catherine Dehoney, [director of Corporate and Foundation Relations in the Development Office] the University has been working closely with both foundations for several years to bring these gifts to fruition," said Dr. Margarete Hall, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "We are very pleased that these prestigious foundations see the value and impact of investing in Gallaudet's programs."

According to Dr. Trent Batson, director of Academic Technology, the Mellon Foundation grant will support professional development for faculty by enriching the learning environment on campus. Batson said the grant will also help create a state-of-the-art multimedia lab on campus. The lab will be the site of workshops throughout the year that will be led by experts from on and off campus who will inform faculty about the latest multimedia programs. "I'm delighted that we have this grant, which was made possible through close cooperation

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Plans made for Black History Month

"Uplifting Our People: Unifying the African American and Deaf Communities" is Gallaudet's theme for the 1996 celebration of February as national Black History Month. As it does every year, the University's Black History Month Planning Committee has worked many months assembling a schedule of activities that reflect the

invaluable contributions of African Americans to all aspects of American society.

This year, the keynote address will be presented by Dr. Reginald Wilson, a noted psychologist and educator who has the added distinction of having been named Senior Scholar of the American Council on Education in 1988. Wilson's talk will be February 5 in Elstad Auditorium from 3 to 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception.

Wilson joined the American Council on Education in 1981 as director of the Office of Minority Concerns. Prior to that appointment, he was president of Wayne County Community College in Detroit, Mich., for nearly 10 years. Wilson's numerous other duties during his career include serving as a psychologist in the Detroit public school system and teaching graduate courses in psychology and black studies at Wayne State University, the University of Detroit, Oakland University, and the University of Michigan.

A seasoned writer and editor, Wilson is the author of *Civil Liberties and the U.S.*, coauthor of *Human Development in the Urban Community*, and editor of *Race and Unity in Higher Education*. His other activities in the publishing field include serving

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Pete McFadden of Grounds Services removes snow at the EMG Building.

PPD fights back against blizzard

The Blizzard of '96, which all but paralyzed the Washington, D.C., area and much of the East Coast, will be remembered as one of the worst storms of the century. But at Gallaudet, work crews from the Physical Plant Department had a plan to deal with the situation before the first snowflake fell.

Although many of the city's streets remained unplowed when the University reopened January 11 after having been closed for three days, employees found an oasis of cleared roads and sidewalks on Kendall Green. The key to PPD's success in a major snow removal operation of this nature, two PPD officials told *On the Green*, was advance preparation.

"Plow with the Storm" is the motto of snow plow operators," said Larry Ott, director of Physical Plant Administration. "And we really follow that here. If you don't, the snow gets ahead of you." "Especially as hard as this was coming down," added Steve Nash, PPD's Grounds Services manager.

"When the snow was first forecast, we put the snow blades and salt boxes on our three trucks," said Nash. This is a procedure that PPD follows every time snow is forecast. Sometimes the effort pays off, and sometimes it doesn't. "We have to rely on [television weather forecasters] just like everyone else, and we've had a few false alarms in the past," Nash explained, "but it's a lot easier to get the trucks ready before a storm than to do it in 12 inches of snow!"

Like most people, Nash and Ott were glued to the television set when weather forecasters first broadcast that the East Coast would be socked by a storm that could bring up to 30 inches of snow.

On Saturday, January 6, the day the blizzard hit, Ott and Nash were

on campus, waiting. That evening, the Department of Safety and Security called to inform them that the snow was falling and that Draper Drive, the road that leads up the hill to MSSD, was getting slick. Both men went into action, plowing through the night until the regular shift of workers arrived at 5 a.m. to relieve them.

"Someone was pretty much plowing around the clock" from Sunday through Tuesday, said Ott. To achieve this, Grounds Services crews worked at least 10-hour shifts, and several employees spent the night on campus rather than risk driving on treacherous streets.

Long hours also were standard for Maintenance Services workers charged with the task of servicing the boiler that heats the University's buildings. Because a licensed engineer has to be on duty in the boiler room at all times, some engineers worked two, even three consecutive shifts waiting for the engineer of the next shift to be able to get to work and relieve them.

Keeping Kendall Green's roadways passable for emergency vehicles, food delivery trucks, and other essential traffic was the top priority for Grounds Services, said Ott. "It was snowing faster than we could remove it from most steps and sidewalks," he added, but crews did their best

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OTG gets new look

On the Green's first issue for 1996 premieres a new masthead depicting a silhouette of the campus. The design was developed by Barbara Rupert, senior publications specialist in the Department of Publications and Production. Variations of this theme have been used by many campus departments over the years for illustrations and graphic identifiers.

**Uplifting Our
People:
Unifying the
African American
and Deaf
Communities**



Snow removal took planning, hard work

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to keep major walkways, such as a pathway to the dining hall and the Student Health Service, clean for MSSD students.

The fact that MSSD students were, for the most part, the only inhabitants of campus at the time, made the job easier, Ott and Nash agreed. "If there was an ideal time for the snow to come, it was during the winter break," said Nash. They explained that because the University was closed, parking lots were clear of vehicles, which made them easier to plow. In addition, PPD planned ahead and had a full supply of heating oil, so it wasn't necessary for fuel oil trucks to navigate the icy city streets to make a delivery to campus.

When an extra five inches of snow was dumped on the city January 12, after the University had reopened for only a day, it was anticlimactic, compared to what the workers had put up with earlier in the week. "Friday's snow was a real piece of cake compared to the earlier one," said Nash.

The additional snowfall made it that much tougher to get parking lots and sidewalks cleared for the

reopening of the University on January 16. But on that day, students, faculty, and staff found the campus fairly easy to navigate. The rest of the week, crews were busy moving piles of snow, clearing storm drains to prevent flooding when the snow melted, and clearing curb cuts for wheelchair users.

Ott commended PPD workers for their part in the snow removal effort. "It was difficult, demanding work," he said, "but they persevered and kept right at it." Ott said that the workers pulled their weight in the effort, and mentioned two who stood out in particular—Pete Agostinelli, who supervises crews working on the north side of campus, and Trudy Haselhuhn, who coordinates crews on the south end. "Both of them should be credited for all the overtime and effort they put in," said Ott.

The cleanup also drew praise from Paul Kelly, vice president for Administration and Business, the division that oversees PPD. "The measures PPD has taken to make the campus safe for pedestrians and drivers alike required dedication and hard work," said Kelly. "All of the workers who played a role in this effort are to be congratulated."

Mellon, Keck foundations approve grants

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between faculty, staff, and Institutional Advancement," said Batson. Because information technology has advanced to the stage where visual information is easily processed and transmitted, "the possibilities are endless here at Gallaudet," Batson said. He added, "This grant will help create a lot of interest in better using information technology in teaching and learning."

The Keck Foundation's grant will fund a two-year program entitled "Project S*OAR (Science* Observing and Reporting)."

The W.M. Keck Foundation was established in 1954 by the late William M. Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Company, who created in his will the W.M. Keck Trust for

the benefit of the foundation. The foundation's primary purpose is to provide grants to U.S. colleges and universities, with a particular emphasis on the fields of science, engineering, and medical research.

Beginning this fall, Project S*OAR will allow science instruction to be transmitted via Internet and computer-based Integrated-Services Digital Network picture phones to science teachers at nine high schools educating deaf students in the United States.

Not only will these technologically advanced teaching tools enhance the science curriculum at these schools, they will open new opportunities for deaf students who are interested in pursuing careers in science fields. Many high school students who enroll at Gallaudet are interested in science-related fields but come to the University lacking a basic foundation in science education. Project S*OAR will improve the skills of science teachers in the participating schools so that deaf students will be better prepared for science courses at the university level.

Project S*OAR is part of a continuum in Gallaudet's efforts to prepare science teachers of deaf high school students, notes Dr. David Snyder, a professor in the Chemistry and Physics Department and project director for S*OAR. The Summer Institute in Biology and the Summer Science Program, where science teachers from all over the nation have come to Gallaudet for four to five weeks each summer for additional preparation in science, are prime examples of the University's outreach efforts.

These programs have drawn high praise, but, as Snyder pointed out, many teachers cannot spare that much time to come to Gallaudet. "We looked for solutions that brought instruction to each teacher's school and right into the science classroom," said Snyder.



Award-winning artist Geraldine Fineman is shown with three of her watercolor paintings on noted Gallaudet landmarks that she has donated to the University: House One (1991), College Hall (1994), and her most recent work, Peikoff Alumni House, which she gave to President Jordan at the Board of Associates' December 7 meeting on campus. Mrs. Fineman's husband, Al Fineman, a BOA member, made the frames for all three pictures, which are on display in Dr. Jordan's office.

Events celebrate Black History Month

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on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Education* and the *Urban Review*.

Officially, Black History Month at the University begins February 2 with the African American Arts, Crafts, and Book Fair, featuring Afrocentric products and food by African American entrepreneurs, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Ely Center Multipurpose Room.

Also, that evening at 8 p.m. in Elstad Auditorium, the School of Communication presents *Laying of Hands*, a play written by deaf playwright Michele Maureen Verhoosky and produced by Michelle Banks, a Gallaudet alumnae and founder and artistic director of Onyx Theatre Company of

New York, N.Y. The play, which is set in the American South of the 1940s, is about an African American deaf woman who receives the power to cure illnesses with her hands. She later realizes that she also heals people's prejudices—but not without some pain in her own heart.

Laying of Hands will also be performed in Elstad Auditorium on February 3 at 3 and 8 p.m. and on February 4 at 3 p.m.

The next activity is on February 5, when Multicultural Student Programs holds a movie night at 7 p.m. in Ely Auditorium (movie TBA).

Then, on February 8, author Omar Tyree will be on hand to sign copies of his newest books, *Capital City* and *Fly Girls*, in Ely Multipurpose Room from noon to 1:30 p.m.

A schedule of the remaining Black History Month activities will appear in the February 5 issue of *On the Green*.

Marie Szopa dies

Marie Marino Szopa, '26, one of Gallaudet's oldest graduates and a staunch supporter of her alma mater, died December 22 at Beaufort (S.C.) Memorial Hospital. She was 93.

Szopa taught at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn., for more than 40 years. Her roots at ASD ran deep—she began attending school there in 1906 at the age of 4. After graduating from ASD at age 18, Szopa enrolled at Gallaudet as a preparatory student. She was one of only about 20 female students in her class. After graduating from Gallaudet, Szopa returned to ASD, becoming one of the school's few deaf teachers.

After her retirement from ASD, Szopa moved to Beaufort to live with her sister, Connie Carpentiere, and a niece, Tina Carpentiere.

Over the years, Szopa was a consistent contributor to Gallaudet. In recent years, she became a major donor and was a member of the President's Circle, a group composed of those who maintain a high level of annual giving.

Szopa was the subject of a "People Plus" feature in the Winter 1993-94 issue of *Gallaudet Today*.

The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to Gallaudet or to ASD.

Classified Ads

FREE: Sleep sofa, valued at \$200, must make own arrangements for pick-up and delivery. E-mail CMCARROLL.

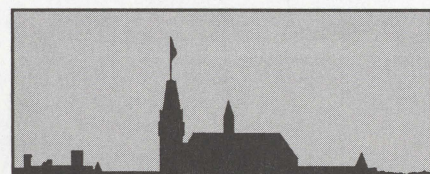
FOR RENT: Room in Silver Spring, Md., home to nonsmoker, avail. immediately, no pets, own trans., \$350/mo. incl. util. and cable TV. Call (301) 385-8766 (V/TTY) or e-mail MMMICELI.

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FOR RENT: Room in Silver Spring, Md., condo to nonsmoker, starting January, no pets, must have car, \$350/mo. plus 1/2 elect. and phone. Rent reduced if watch after 3-yr.-old boy 2 nights/wk. Call (301) 890-2435 or e-mail LCSTAMPER.



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